

To: Clerks, via email

August 18, 2022

Re: Notice of Pre-consultation, Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Plans

Over the past three years, the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Committee (SPC) has been working on a review and amendment of the Source Protection Plans (SPPs) for this region. The proposed amendments are now available for review and comment.

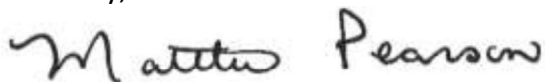
This Notice of pre-consultation is being circulated to municipalities and other implementing bodies as required under Section 36 of Regulation 287/07 of the Ontario *Clean Water Act, 2006*. Please note that the impact on your municipality is minimal. Since your municipality does not have wellhead protection areas within the Ausable Bayfield or Maitland Valley watersheds, the Source Protection Plan policies would be non-binding. However, we ask that all municipalities consider a new proposed policy, directed to municipalities, to encourage ongoing education regarding source water protection. For your convenience, the proposed policy is enclosed.

The draft updated documents and a summary of amendments can be accessed at this link, should you wish to review them:
<https://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca/consultation/>. You can find a video regarding this proposed amendment, featuring SPC committee member Allan Rothwell, at this YouTube link: [this https://youtu.be/hMFW9J0yZFY](https://youtu.be/hMFW9J0yZFY)

Comments received through pre-consultation will be reviewed by the Source Protection Committee prior to public consultation. **The deadline for pre-consultation comments is October 14, 2022.** Comments may be submitted via email to dclarkson@abca.ca or mailed to the address below.

If you have questions, please contact Drinking Water Source Protection Co-Supervisors, Donna Clarkson dclarkson@abca.ca 519-335-3557 ext.224 or Mary Lynn MacDonald mmacdonald@abca.ca 519-235-2610 ext. 247.

Sincerely,



Matt Pearson
Chair, Source Protection Committee
Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region

New proposed policy directed to Municipalities:

Note: policy is legally binding for wellhead protection areas, and non-binding for other vulnerable areas

Policy O.11.7 – Education and Outreach for Vulnerable Areas

Each municipality within the Source Protection Areas where drinking water threats could occur shall:

- 1) Develop and deliver an ongoing education and outreach program to affected landowners and stakeholders to increase awareness of the vulnerable areas and the need to protect drinking water;
- 2) Harmonize the program with any existing education and outreach programs and share with other municipalities where this would increase efficiency and reduce cost;
- 3) Consult and collaborate with Ontario Ministries, local Public Health, and Conservation Authorities (or other agencies) to assist with the development and delivery of the education and outreach program where possible;
- 4) Promote best management practices and voluntary action to protect sources of drinking water; and
- 5) Update educational information as required

Effective Date: Within five years of the Plans, or any plan amendment, as applicable, taking effect.

FAQ

What is a source protection plan?

A source protection plan aims to protect sources of municipal drinking water from activities that are, or would become, significant drinking water threats. In the ABMV region, significant threats may occur in wellhead protection areas. Activities may be moderate or low threats in other vulnerable areas.

What are the Vulnerable Areas?

There are four types of vulnerable areas under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*:

- Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA);
- Intake Protection Zone (IPZ);
- Highly Vulnerable Aquifer (HVA); and
- Significant Groundwater Recharge Area (SGRA)

How do the policies affect municipalities in the ABMV region?

Source Protection Plan policies are legally binding ('must conform to') for wellhead protection areas where the activity is a significant threat, and non-binding ('have regard for') in other vulnerable areas in the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley watersheds.

For more information:

Go to <https://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca/> to find the Source Protection Plans and maps. There are also numerous fact sheets and videos available to support education and outreach to your residents. Source protection staff are available to assist you.